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Message Text

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ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 INR-05 L-01 OPR-01 A-01 SCA-01

CIAE-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 /038 W
---------- 086468
R 250917Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9971
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY SAIGON
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
COMUSSAG NKP THAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 5406

LIMDIS

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR CB VS
SUBJECT: SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY PLANS

1. VIETNAMESE DCM HUYNH HUU LUAN CALLED AT HIS REQUEST ON DCM MARCH 25. HE ASKED THE OPINION OF THIS EMBASSY AS TO WHETHER THE SOUTH VIETNAMESE SHOULD CLOSE THEIR EMBASSY AND EVACUATE ENTIRELY, GIVEN THE CURRENT STATE OF UNCERTAINTY IN PHNOM PENH AND THE DEPARTURE OF SO MANY OTHER EMBASSIES. HE WAS UNDER IMPRESSION THAT THAI AND INDONESIAN EMBASSIES WERE PREPARING TO EVACUATE.

2. DCM STATED THAT ALTHOUGH SOME FOREIGN EMBASSIES HAD LEFT, A NUMBER REMAIN (ALTHOUGH WITH REDUCED STAFFS) INCLUDING, BESIDES OUR OWN, THE JAPANESE, CHINESE, MALAYSIAN, THAI, INDONESIAN AND SOUTH KOREAN MISSIONS. DCM SAID WE ARE CONTINUING TO OPERATE OUR OWN MISSION AT FULL STRENGTH, AND THE VOLUNTARY AGENCIES ARE ALSO MAINTAINING THEIR STAFFS, IN SOME CASES EVEN ADDING A FEW NEW AMERICANS BECAUSE OF THEIR EXPANDED HUMANITARIAN PROGRAM RESPONSIBILITIES. OUR EFFORT AND INTENTION IS TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE GKR TO THE LIMIT OF OUR ABILITY.
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3. DCM EXPRESSED OUR VIEW THAT IT WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL TO KHMER MORALE IF SOUTH VIETNAMESE WERE TO CLOSE THEIR EMBASSY HERE. SINCE WE HAD AGREED TO ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EVACUATION OF THE VIETNAMESE EMBASSY STAFF, WE WOULD AT THE SAME TIME BE GRATEFUL IF THAT EMBASSY COULD COMPLETE THE REDUCTION OF ITS STAFF TO THE LEVEL OF 14 PERSONS WHICH WE HAD PREVIOUSLY AGREED UPON IN CONSULTATION WITH THEM. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ITS PRESENT STRENGTH IS MUCH HIGHER THAN THAT, PERHAPS AS MANY AS FORTY.

4. LUAN APPEARED MUCH RELIEVED AT THIS RESPONSE, AND POINTED OUT THAT HIS EMBASSY HAD A MAJOR CONTINUING RESPONSIBILITY TO THE LARGE NUMBERS OF VIETNAMESE NATIONALS STILL REMAINING IN CAMBODIA. HE SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE CONVERSATION BACK TO AMBASSADOR PHOUC, AND IT WAS AGREED THAT OUR TWO EMBASSIES WOULD REMAIN IN CLOSE CONTACT ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO EVACUATION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PHNOM05406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750103-0839
From: PHNOM PENH
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750318/aaaaapui.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09 JUL 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

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US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOUTH VIETNAMESE EMBASSY PLANS
TAGS: AEMR, CB, VS
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006